

WASHINGTON POST AND  
TIMES HERALD

FEB 20 1964

## Threatens Link to China

# Sihanouk Gives West Neutrality Ultimatum

By Warren Unna  
Staff Reporter

PICH NIL, Cambodia, Feb. 18 (Delayed) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk appears to be in dead earnest this time when he says he will align his country with Communist China and North Viet-Nam unless the West guarantees his country's borders and neutrality. And by the West he means the United States.

"We have to choose now to die at the hands of Thailand and South Viet-Nam or to survive with somebody's help

and that somebody can be only China," Cambodia's 41-year-old chief of state declared in a 100-minute interview here at his mountain chalet tonight.

"Your allies, Thailand and South Viet-Nam, are our mortal enemies. They do this only with your armament and your dollars. Why does America spend her time to handicap me and threaten my country?" Sihanouk asked, throw-

ing up his arms in exasperation.

Sihanouk made it clear that the last straw was last week's Vietnamese bombing and strafing raid on his border village of Mong, which International Control Commission authorities have confirmed killed five Cambodian farmers and seriously wounded six.

According to Sihanouk, this is the 163d "aggression" he has suffered from South Viet-Nam, and now he has had it.

Sihanouk's threat to take his Utah-size country of 6 million people into the Communist camp adds considerably to the West's headaches in trying to stave off Communist takeovers in shaky Laos and South Viet-Nam and to shore up exposed Thailand.

"Cambodia does not want to expel the influence of the West because our idea is to be neutral and to safeguard our *joie de vivre*, our happy way

of life," Sihanouk declared as he watched the setting sun draw sparkles from a late afternoon rain. But he insisted that his country now was faced with the harder reality of frontier security.

Sihanouk's final plea to the West is contained in a proposal issued this morning. It calls for a meeting of the representatives of the United States, Thailand, South Viet-Nam and Cambodia in his Capital of Phnom Penh no later than the end of March.

## Three Things Wanted

Sihanouk wants three things out of this conference:

1. "The United States, Thailand and South Viet-Nam to recognize the neutrality of Cambodia.

2. "The recognition of our territorial integrity as fixed by the present frontiers with your signature on the maps made for us by American aid.

3. "The establishment of fixed International Control Commission posts (composed of representatives from India, Canada and Poland) at sensitive spots in order to make sure that nothing comes through Cambodia into South Viet-Nam to aid the (Communist rebel) Viet Cong as they say in your papers."

Sihanouk wants the United States to foot the bill for the ICC posts "because it is from the United States that we get accusations of involvement with the Viet Cong."

In return for these three demands, Sihanouk said he will make three promises:

1. "To remain neutral.

2. "Not to permit any foreigners or any rebels to come into our territory to establish themselves or to transport armament.

3. "Not to allow anybody to establish any military bases inside Cambodia."

Sihanouk looks on his proposal today as a concession. In a proposal made last Saturday, he had demanded that the United States agree to a Cambodian neutrality conference in Geneva by the end of April.

Today he said that a conference in Phnom Penh "of just us four" will avoid any dis-

Continued